

Meeting Location Issues in planning for the new CFAC

- Is there a Central location for all the CFAC groups to meet? Should the location rotate? Should the groups use teleconferencing or other forms of technology to meet?
- What about opportunities for members in outlying areas to attend? How about transportation for non-driving members?

The Make-up of the New CFAC

- Should there just be one large CFAC?
- How many members should be represented in the merged CFAC?
- An equal number from each county (from each of the disability groups?)
- A representative (population) percentage from each of the counties merging?
- What gives the best representation of Consumers and family members?
- Who will be the new Chair, Vice Chair, Co-chairs?
- Will each program keep its own CFAC Liaison or will there be one Liaison for the merged CFAC?

Finances

- How much do the members in the other CFACs get reimbursed for: Stipends, Mileage, Child Care/Dependent Care?
- Will the budgets merge and how will the money be used?
- Should the merged/CFAC elect a new treasurer to oversee how the money will be used?

Trainings

- Who is eligible for trainings?
- What is the best way for people to share training information?
- How will topics for training be selected?
- Will there be a request for training form?
- When a person is sent for training how are they held accountable for using the training to benefit the mission of the CFAC?

Bylaws and Relational Agreements

- How will or will the former bylaws be incorporated together?
- Who will write the new bylaws (a joint committee)
- Will the new bylaws designate a new name for the merged CFAC?
- Will the bylaws allow for subdivisions within the merged CFAC.
- Will a new relational agreement be requested determining the who, what, when, where, why, and how the new CFAC will communicate with the new area board?

Examples of Merged CFACs

Example One

- Merged into one large CFAC with equal representation from each of the representative counties.
- Made Chairs into co-chairs.
- Kept respective Liaisons.
- Merged budgets and reworked CFACs' bylaws to incorporate both CFACs' strengths.
- Meetings in the same central location each month.
- All members have voting rights.
- CFAC provides transportation who do not have their own.

Example of New CFAC

Example Two

- Formed a large CFAC by having a percentage of the population represented from each county.
- Local CFAC still active in each county.
- Local CFAC members vote on an issue
- The representatives to the consolidated CFAC represent the will of the local CFAC to the consolidated CFAC by voting.
- Meetings rotate each month.
- One liaison is assigned to the new large CFAC.
- Bylaws rewritten and a new budget developed.

CFAC Involvement in Merger Talks

It is important that the CFAC or CFACs should be involved in each step of the process so that they may fulfill their statutory role on behalf of consumers and family members in their prospective cachement areas.

Helpful People

- Consumer Empowerment Team
 - Can offer technical assistance
 - Can bring additional assistance from the division of MH/DD/SAS
 - Must remain neutral but may facilitate conflict resolution
 - May offer creative solutions to problems encountered in the merger
 - May help individuals and groups to move successfully from one LME to the next by focusing or respect for feelings.

Sub Committees

- In multi county LME's it is often difficult to get representation from all of the counties
- One way of getting representation from all counties is to have subcommittees that meet in each county
- This would mean having a monthly subcommittee meeting in each county
- There would be an overall CFAC made of representatives from each subcommittee that meets at least quarterly

Satellite Groups

- One LME with a large geographic area that does not lend it self well to a single meeting point might have satellite groups
- An example might be dividing the LME into 2 to 3 regions and having 2 to 3 multi-county groups that represent certain parts of the LME
- These small groups would get together at least quarterly as one large group possibly utilizing teleconferencing

If you are having trouble getting people to the table...maybe you need to go where they are!

